

Introduction

American poet Robert Frost wrote:

“The world has room to make a bear feel free.”

There are three species of bears that live in North America: brown (grizzly) bears, black bears, and polar bears. There are eight species of bears that live throughout the world (including North America). There are no bears in the Antarctic, Africa, or Australia. The Australia Koala is not a bear, it is a marsupial. How important is it to have bears in our world? Does the world still have room for both people and bears?

Use the activities, background information, and specimens in this Bear Box to create an educational unit about black bears. Each activity describes what a teacher needs to do to get ready for the lesson. The background section provides relevant, current information related to the lessons topic. The procedure outlines step-by-step instructions for successful completion of the lesson.

It is the aim of this curriculum unit to help educators lead students to an awareness of Tahoe Black Bears and their habitat needs. The ultimate goal is to stimulate students and others to change their personal behavior and to take constructive actions to help protect and ensure the future survival of black bears. Human attitudes are affecting the survival of bears throughout the world. A bear cannot change who it is, but we as humans can change our attitudes and actions.

The bear box and the activity guide is a partnership project of the California Department of Fish and Game, Nevada Department of Wildlife, and United States Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Unit.

